



December 31, 2002. Applicant requests that the Finality of the Office Action of December 31, 2002 be withdrawn.

The Applicant herewith petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated December 31, 2002 as necessary.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Acct. No. 11-0224. Applicant further respectfully requests that this response be accepted as a bona fide effort to meet any potential response requirements outstanding and due in the above captioned matter.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 of the specification by the following paragraph:

Handwritten: 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100
The communications board 20 comprises a self-contained CPU 22 (Hitachi 64 180 or a Zilog Z80 180) with the serial interface 32 disposed on the CPU

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side. The central processing unit CPU 22 has coordinated a fixed value memory storage 24 (read only memory ROM) of the type 27C 1000/2000 and a battery buffered operating data storage 25 (random access memory RAM) of the type DS 1225/1230Y. The connection between the central processing unit CPU 22, the memory components 24, 25 and a serial communications controller 28 (Zilog Z85 C30) with the serial ports is performed by way of an address decoder 26 and an I/O decoder 27 and a bus. A serial port 29 of the communications controller 28 leads under connection of a power amplifier 30 (MAX483 or MAX487) to the display means 21 formed as a large display field, with which the temporary jackpot stand is displayed. An external personal-computer not illustrated is connectable at an interface 31 of the communications controller 28 formed as an RS 232 interface. An interface adapter 33 is connected at a serial interface 32 of the communications controller 28 formed as a serial interface RS 485. The interface adapter 33 comprises essentially an optical coupler 35 of the type 6 N 136 for galvanic separation and a power stage 34 disposed successively to the optical coupler 35. The network cabling (133) is connected to the power stage 34. --

Please substitute the paragraph bridging pages 19 and 21 of the specification by the following paragraph:

P² --Several coin operated entertainment automats 1 of [[of]] the same construction type are networked to each other according to a further embodiment of the Invention illustrated in Figure 5 [[7]]. The network (operational block 49) is initiated by actuating the power switch of each entertainment automat 1, wherein one of the entertainment automats 1 assumes the master function according to Figure 5. The further entertainment automats 1 present in the network switch to a slave function according to Figure 6. The master function comprises essentially that the coordination of the entertainment automats 1 present in the network is assumed, in particular with respect to the collection of data through the counter state of the jackpot amount and the release of a common special game, which takes place at all entertainment automats 1 present in the network at the same time. In case of a sufficient credit balance state a symbol combination is randomly determined in the operational block 50 and is displayed in the symbol display device 2. An adjustable shared part amount of the game stake of each base game is transferred to a common jackpot counter (operational block 51). The counter

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state of the jackpot counter is checked in a branching block 51 following to the determination of the winning value in the base game. If the predetermined jackpot counter state is reached or surpassed, then the master (operational block 53) sends a control signal to all other entertainment automats 1 present in the network, wherein the slaves switch to the special game based on the control signal after termination of the base game. It is monitored in the operational block 54, if an okay signal was returned by all slaves. In the following the special game is started at the same time in all participating coin actuated entertainment ~~automat~~ automats 1.--

Please substitute the last paragraph on page 22 of the specification by the following paragraph:

3 --In case of a remaining residual game time, winning symbols displayed with the symbol display device 2 can be held (operational block 42, operational block 46) in the following by actuating the operational element [[34]] 3 or all up to now held cards can be thrown out by actuating the entry block 41.--

Please substitute the paragraph bridging pages 29 and 30 of the specification by the following paragraph:

64 --Upon actuation of the hand out key (entry block 41) the cards not held or winning symbols not held are replaced by randomly determined new winning symbols. The start of the new game is synchronized with the further entertainment automats 1 in the following operational block 67. The individual game results of each entertainment automat 1 are fed to the master entertainment automat (operational block 58), wherein the master entertainment automat collects and accumulates the individual game results. The obtained game results are communicated to the slaves in a following operational block 69. The winning value coordinated to each obtained symbol combination is communicated to the master entertainment automat. The winning value coordinated to the obtained symbol combination is determined by each slave (operational block 70) in the following and is displayed with the display means disposed on the side of the entertainment automat. A return is performed from the operational block 70 and the branching block [[15]] 71 by checking, if a predetermined number of games

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has been performed. In the following the winning value display 58 is activated by the branching block 71, and a return is performed from the winning value display 58 to the entry operational block 50 for determining a game entitling credit balance.--
